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SUBJECT: DHAKA UNDECIDED ON SUPPORT FOR IRENA

REF: STATE 61286

On 18 June, Shelley Salehin, Assistant Secretary of the Bangladesh MFA's Americas and Pacific Wing, reported to POLOFF that Bangladesh was still considering whether to sign the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) statute. Bangladesh was supportive of the initiative in principle, but had not made a final decision on membership. Salehin could not speak on whether Bangladesh would send participants to attend the June 28-30 IRENA meeting in Egypt. On 16 June, POLOFF had informed the Bangladesh MFA that the U.S. Government was strongly considering signing the IRENA statute. POLOFF also outlined U.S. arguments in favor of UAE's bid for IRENA's headquarters and relayed other points in ref. According to Salehin, Bangladesh had no official position on the location of IRENA's headquarters. The MFA would keep the U.S. Government apprised of any updates on Bangladesh's stance.
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